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Six Hundred Miles Overland.

It was on the morning of May 4th, 1905, that Rev. J. L. Gerdine and I, in company with some of our Korean Christians, started for Wonsan by way of Kang-neung. This town is on the eastern coast of the peninsula almost directly east of Seoul. To take the nearest route from Seoul to Kang-neung the distance is a little more than one hundred and fifty miles. Then from Kang-neung to Wonsan it is one hundred and fifty miles, and from Wonsan back to Seoul one hundred and fifty miles. The route thus forms an equilateral triangle of one hundred and fifty miles to the side. We were out for the purpose of preaching and selling Scriptures and therefore did not go direct but visited several points which took us considerably off of the direct road, thus making the distance much greater than it otherwise would have been.

We knew that it would require a month's time to reach Wonsan and so the necessary supplies of food and clothing for that time were packed and carried on a mule and a pony. Mr. Gerdine rode a donkey and I mounted a bicycle—for traveling in Korea give me a bicycle, it beats all the donkeys or ponies that I have tried. As the packs and Mr. Gerdine's donkey had been sent out a day ahead, when we started from Seoul we traveled by "tying"—that is one rode ahead for some distance, then leaving the bicycle by the road-side walked on. Then the other, coming up, mounted the bicycle and was soon ahead of the first. By this method we overtook our packs before noon the first day out.

I will say just here that in all my travels in Korea I have never found the people so willing to hear the Gospel nor so ready to buy books as they were on this trip. The country people are waking up and are seemingly anxious to learn something new. We found much to encourage us in our work.

The second night out we spent in the county seat of Yang-geun, which is a town of nearly four hundred houses and is most beautifully situated on the banks of the Han River one hundred and twenty *li* southeast of Seoul. There is nothing here of special interest to one who is out only for sight-seeing; but to us who are interested in soul-saving any Korean village is interesting, and wherever there are Christians, as is the case here, it is doubly so.

From Yang-geun we went on through Che P'yŭng county seat which is very much like all the other towns of its class. The most conspicuous feature of these county seats is the old and dilapidated appearance of the public buildings. The approach to this town is marked by a number of tablets which have been erected to perpetuate the memory of the "heroes" and "statesmen" of other days. Many of these tablets, now fallen and fast being covered over with earth, are fit emblems of departed glory.

Speaking of tablets reminds me of one that we came suddenly upon one day in a place remote, about twenty-five or thirty miles from the county seat of Wŭn-ju. It is what is known as a turtle tablet from the fact that the base is a huge turtle carved from one solid block of gray granite. In general form this tablet is similar to the one in Seoul, though to my mind the workmanship is superior to the one in the Capital. The turtle's head is curved back so as to rest upon his back in a way that displays much skill in the artist. The tablet itself stands more than twelve feet high and is capped with a most artistically carved dragon. I was sorry not to be able to learn anything of the history of this piece of work which is a standing witness to the skill of the Korean artist and the departing glory of old Korea.

This was my first visit to Wŭn-ju, the former capital of Kang Wŭn Province. It has been visited by foreigners, in fact one French priest has lived there several years, but the curiosity of the people has not been satisfied and the crowds that gathered about our inn were, to say the least of it, interesting to one who delights to study queer expressions on the faces of gaping spectators. But when one is tired and his nerves call for rest, to have this crowd of hungry gazers stand by the hour is somewhat trying. I tried a new plan for dispersing them and it worked like a charm. It was on towards ten o'clock at night. They had, with all the interest of a small boy at his first circus, watched us eat, and the boxes had been closed and placed outside. This, it seemed to us, ought to have been a hint that the show was over; but not so to this crowd which still stood anxiously waiting to see what would next be done. We were anxious to attend to some business before retiring but how to get at it with all this mass of humanity closely crowding our doors was more than we could tell. At last a new thought came to me and I suddenly blew out the lights, thus effectually closing the show for the night. From the darkness came exclamations of surprise and the sound of hastily retreating feet and we were at last left to ourselves.

This old capital has about a thousand houses and is located in a most fertile valley surrounded on all sides by high mountains which give at once splendor and beauty to the whole scene. It was market day when we entered and there was an air of push and business that I have not often seen in a Korean town.

From here we went about twenty-five miles south east to Che Ch'ŭn which is in North Ch'ung Ch'ŭng Province. The road led us over mountain passes, through fertile valleys and down sparkling streams that presented one continual changing scene of beauty and grandeur. Here the azalia in all its loveliness appears at almost every turn while many other varieties of wild flowers add their charm to the scene. On leaving Che Ch'un county we entered Pyŭng Ch'ang county. It was in this county just

out a short distance from the county seat that I found one of the largest pagodas that I have seen in Korea. It stands in a field quite alone, with no signs of other buildings near it; though I was told by the people in the nearest village that many years ago there was a Buddhist temple there. It is about fifteen feet in diameter at the base, seven stories high, the stories varying in height from three to ten or twelve feet. The material is slate about three inches thick and of various sizes from a few inches to two feet wide. The outside edges are quite smoothly cut while the inside is left rough just as they were broken at first. The foundation stones are of cut granite and are left plain with no inscription or carving of any kind. In each side there is what has the appearance of a door made by heavy side posts and large double shutters of stone, which were never intended to open. The inside of the structure is filled with dirt. It would be interesting to know something of the history of this pagoda but no one with whom I talked could give me any information as to its age or by whom it was built. It is now leaning considerably and a few more years will suffice to reduce it to a heap of rubbish.

It was also in this county not far from this pagoda that I found a fine piece of engineering. I noticed a stream of beautiful clear water which flowed near the roadside and was used for watering the rice fields. Following this I soon came to what seemed to be its source; but imagine my surprise to find it flowing out of the hill-side through a tunnel about four feet wide and ten feet high. This I supposed to be the entrance to a cave, but could hardly believe that a cave with so much water in it would be found in so small a hill, though the hill was of considerable size, being the point of a spur extending from a mountain several hundred feet high. Further investigations revealed a river on the other side of the hill. I was told that a gentleman from Seoul, more than thirty years ago, had this tunnel made for the purpose of irrigating the rice fields. It is more than three hundred feet in length and required no small amount of labor to construct it with such tools as the Koreans have. But

as the formation of the hill is limestone the construction was more easy than it would have been had the hill been of some harder formation. I have seen nothing like it in any other part of the country.

This entire region is of limestone formation and there are literally mountains of marble, much of which seems to be of a very fine quality and in great variety of color, from snow white to dark blue—almost black. Our road, or path, led on for miles through these mountains of marble presenting one change after another in the scene which is continually one of beauty and of rugged splendor. In some places these great walls of marble stand hundreds of feet high, almost perpendicular, sometimes covered with bushes and wild flowers, semetimes entirely bare. Here in the hills and mountains of marble are vast stores of wealth only waiting for the hand of enterprise to develop it.

As we went on from day to day towards Kang-neung we found the mountains higher and so close together that rice fields entirely disappeared; the villages are few in number and present a very poor appearance, the houses being covered with bark from trees, rough boards held in position with stones, or thatched with weeds of the *sam* or hemp, of which there is a great deal cultivated in these parts. All through this region rice is scarce and millet is one of the principal food stuffs along with barley and potatoes. Just at this season the people gather wild vegetables in great quantities from the mountains. There is a sort of root which they call *tŭ-dŭk*, which sounds like the Korean for "more bread." This is gathered in large quantities by the women and girls whom we often saw returning home with great bundles of it on their heads. I have never seen this root in the rice-growing sections of the country. It is wonderful how God has supplied every part of this country with whatever seems to be most needful for the people.

The last range of mountains extending along the coast is only about fifteen miles from the sea and the height we think is about four thousand feet; as we had no means of ascertaining the measurements we could only

guess at them. From the top of this last pass the view looking out toward the sea is one of the most beautiful I have seen in any part of the world. The ascent to the top of the pass is so gradual that one would hardly think it a pass at all, but the descent to the coast is so steep and rugged that it is very difficult for loaded ponies to go down. We stopped and looked over the Japan Sea, which in itself is a thing of beauty, while all the distance between is one varying scene of green hill-tops separated by small valleys through which little streams of clear water wind their way to the sea. Here the azalia is profusely abundant, the most beautiful variety being almost white and very large, and the luxuriant fern calls forth the admiration of the weary traveler.

Kang-neung is the largest town in this part of the country, though I do not think it has more than five hundred houses. It has a wall which is in somewhat of a tumbled-down and dilapidated state and there are signs here of "departed glory." Some of the old public buildings are yet standing though in a bad state of repair. One of these is quite large and seems to have been used only for a repository of the picture of some former king. The town is near the coast but there is no sort of harbor here—in fact there is none anywhere from this point to Wonsan, except at one place there is a small bay into which boats of considerable size may enter, though it could never be a first class harbor.

From Kang-neung the road leading to Wonsan runs close to the beach nearly all the way; in some places the hills stretch down to the sea so that the road must turn back nearer the main range of mountains. This range follows the coast closely all the way as far north and south as I have been, there being at no place more than twenty miles from the high range to the sea. From Kang-neung to Wonsan there are five counties with their county seats situated along in this narrow strip of land between the mountains and the sea. The population is sparce, the villages small and the people as a rule poor—even for Korea. Farming and fishing are the principal

occupations, neither of which seems to be pursued very vigorously. The manufacture of salt, which is carried on quite extensively along this coast, is very interesting to those seeing it for the first time. A level plot of ground about one hundred and fifty by fifty yards is selected and made quite smooth; it is then surrounded by a trench for water. From this trench almost to the sea is a line of gutters made by digging out one side of logs. The sea water is carried a short distance in buckets and poured into this line of gutters which carries it into the trench where it completely surrounds the yard which has been previously covered to the depth of two or three inches with loose dirt. Then by means of dippers, made of half a large gourd tied to a long pole, the water is taken from the trench and thrown over the yard till all the loose dirt is thoroughly wet; this is repeated several times; then the dirt is scraped up by means of wooden scrapers drawn by cows; after it has thus been collected it is made into mounds with a depression in the top which is filled with water; by this means the water passes through the dirt carrying the salt with it into a pit in the ground from whence it is ready for the pan. Of course this process colors the water in proportion to the color of the soil of the salt plot and this accounts for the dark color of most Korean salt. The pans which are about nine by fifteen feet are made of oyster shells and nothing more crude could be imagined. After the shells are collected and piled in heaps mixed with wood they are burnt till reduced to lime, out of which these huge pans are made. They are not strong enough to support their own weight, but this difficulty is overcome by means of iron anchors which are tied with straw rope to poles across the top of the pan, and go through the bottom of the pan thus giving support to it. There is one of these anchors to every square foot of the pan. It is about eight inches deep and we were told that one boiling, which requires about twenty-four hours, turns out about three bags of salt. The boiler is surrounded by thatched walls but has no roof, an opening being required for the escape of steam and smoke. Under thatch on

either side are storage pits for the brine carried from the yard pits and also for the finished product. Here also is a little room or two in which a family lives; and another department for the cows which are used in scraping up the dirt on the yard.

We turned off from the main road and spent one day in the Diamond Mountains, which have so often been described that I shall not attempt it here. The Buddhist temple at which we stopped and which the priests told us was founded there during the Silla dynasty, is quite large though it seems to be in a poverty stricken state at this time. The mountains here being high and exceedingly rugged it is impossible to ascend many of the peaks. In the morning as we approached these heights the clouds gathered and the falling rain drops dancing in the struggling sunbeams covered these grand old peaks with a perfect sheen of splendor in the form of a veil of rainbow. This variegated veil of dazzling beauty drifted slowly before the morning breezes for more than thirty minutes making, in all, one of the most beautiful sights it has been my fortune to witness.

Near this temple we found a hot spring which if in the United States of America would at once be famous and a fortune to its owner. In these mountains, so far as I can judge, there are no signs of volcanic action; so I was surprised to find this hot spring bursting forth as if from the regions of eternal fires. It is in a small valley about five miles inland from the coast, seventy miles down from Wonsan, and has been used by the Koreans for hundreds of years. There are the remains of what seem to have been substantial buildings of considerable dimensions; but now there are only about half a dozen thatched houses standing. The spring is walled up with large slabs of stone and is about six by nine feet, and a foot and a half deep; though it may be made twice that depth if so desired. The water, which is so hot that it is with difficulty one can lie down in it, is abundant, clear as crystal and very soft, leaving the body in a most delightful condition when the bath is over. This will some day in the not distant future be one of Korea's famous

resorts and those who are seeking health and recreation will find it pleasant to linger here.

A little farther up the coast from this point is one of the eight wonders of Korea, in the form of a geological formation, the most wonderful that I have ever seen. There are hundreds of columns of stone from fifty to one hundred feet high, perfectly straight, not more than three feet in diameter, six sided in shape, standing in groups of ten or more and presenting the appearance of huge lead pencils standing on end. To give a full description would require a whole article such as this.

From Wonsan I returned to Seoul by the way of the big road which I found to be a very good one now that the Japanese have spent thousands of yen in grading down the hills and building bridges.

J. Robert Moose.

A Notable Movement in Korea.

The past few months have seen the inception of a movement that gives promise of very important results both for the Korean people and for humanity at large. We refer to the proposed union in evangelistic, medical, journalistic and educational work by almost all the Protestant missionaries of the country. The most striking feature of the movement is that it includes not only those forms of philanthropic work which are the same in all different creeds and denominations but extends to those branches of the service where dogma has heretofore shown clear demarcations between the different banches of the Protestant Church. Presbyterian and Methodist have agreed that the differences between the two great bodies are philosophical rather than practical and that the essential teaching of the Bible admits of no such segregation of interest and dissipation of effort as has been witnessed during the century that Protestant missions have been in operation.

It would require no genius to surmise that if the

highly subdivided and in some sense antagonistic portions of Protestantism in America and England are ever to be welded into a single, harmonious, though highly articulated, body, the initial impulse would be likely to come from the outside, and what more promising field for the inauguration of the new order of things than in such a place as Korea where a large and flourishing Christian constituency has been secured and where, as yet, the Christian people know nothing of denominational lines except the fact that there are different societies at work here. The missionaries have been driven to recognize the genuine injury which the Church must suffer here if these questions of dogma are brought forward in a polemic way. They know, as all men know, that these moot points of theology are academic rather than practical and that to make the adherence to one or other of them a test of Christian *fellowship* is as absurd as it would be to make a difference in degree of education a bar to marriage. It is only when a dogma tends to make an essential difference in the quality of men's faith in divine things that it can rightly be empowerd to establish a separate division of the Church. Christendom looks forward to the difinite union of all Christian bodies into a single fellowship but this can come only when all men consent to relegate to a secondary place all dogmas which are not essential to the processes of salvation. This will be but the first step in the desired direction and it is this step that is now being taken in the interests of the Protestant Churches in Korea. This is but one of the ways in which the more stereotyped forms of Christianity in the home lands will have been reflexly acted upon by their own "colonies" in these outlying lands. They will be, in a sense, shamed into discussing the question as applied to themselves and the result will be a still further breaking down of the fences which mar the beauty of the field of Christian effort there.

Among the different forms of work that are thus to be brought under joint management one of the most important seems to be that of education. There we find peculiar difficulties to be met which are fortunately ab-

sent from more enlightened lands. The first is that there is practically no such thing as a system of national education. A few boys are in schools but they are so very few that they only make the general darkness visible. It becomes necessary for the missionaries to decide whether they will enter upon the broad field of general education which must, of course, form the basis for particular or professional education. They look primarily to the interests of the children of the Church and must plan for a common school education for them, whatever the subsequent form of life and service of the child may be. They cannot depend upon the government to provide the first rudiments of learning. There must be therefore in every Christian village, or wherever there is a considerable group of Christians, a native school which shall provide instruction in the rudiments of what we call education. One of the first questions will be that in regard to the admittance of children not connected in any way with the Christian element of the place. It may be taken for granted that definite Christian instruction will form an important part of the curriculum and for this reason we should think that the admission of all children would be desirable except in case a child is openly hostile to Christianity or his moral influence distinctly harmful. The teacher would have to be given large discretion in such cases.

We think this question of common schools for the general body of Christians throughout the country should take precedence of the question of a large central school of academic or collegiate grade. No such central school can thrive unless it has back of it a strong constituency to draw from, a body of common school students so considerable that when an annual selection of the best students is made for promotion to the higher school a fairly high grade of excellence can be made the standard.

But how can we have these common schools when as yet we have no teachers for them, or at best only a few? Must we not first have a school whose graduates will become teachers? We would answer this in the negative.

The graduates of such a school would be in such demand elsewhere that they would not be willing to go to remote country places and teach for small salaries. What we would suggest is something like the following. Let one bright young man of twenty or twenty-two be selected from each of the groups where schools are to be established and let them come together in a normal class at some center where there are foreign workers. Let some of the best-educated Koreans, or, failing this, the foreigner, take them in hand for two months each year, teaching them what they are to teach their classes and then send them back to their schools. These men will not be ideal teachers but they will keep well ahead of their classes and in time will become thoroughly efficient. At present and for several years to come it will be a question of doing not the ideally best but *the best we can*. The important thing is to get a large number of boys under as good instruction as possible. Out of this large constituency superior quality will show itself and a good body of teachers gradually emerge. It will be at least four years before this body of students can be drawn upon to form a class in some large and more central school. But more than one such middle school will be required. There will be need of at least eight of them situated at strategic points throughout the country. While the common schools are being carried on men should be preparing to teach in these large schools. Out of the teachers of the common schools who meet each year for instruction there will be some who show exceptional energy and ability. Let them understand that the best among them will, after four years, be promoted to the middle schools, and this will cause much useful emulation. When the middle schools have been under way for a few years it will begin to appear whether a college or university is necessary. If so it can be established. What we contend is that we must begin at the very bottom. What have our little attempts so far amounted to? It is safe to say there are three or four thousand boys and girls of school age among the Protestant Christians of Korea. How many have we in our schools today? Less than a handful. It

will never he possible to establish a good school of high grade in Seoul in this way. We must begin at the bottom and work up the school matter among the masses until we have a constituency, a feeder for one big central school. At present we have a few students but are they picked men who have shown preeminent ability? I think not. They are most anything we can get. And we will never have any better until we get back of us a body of primary and intermediate scholarship which shall push the best to the top. Then we can have the school we want, and not till then.

I should propose that the foreign missionaries who have been designated for educational work lay aside all thought of an immediate central school of large dimensions in Seoul or elsewhere and begin the general work thoroughly by getting together from the various districts the men who are to form the body of teachers; confine themselves to normal work for a year; send out these men to start common schools in the towns and villages; take more men and continue the same way until we have a network of common schools all over the country. Let all these teachers gather in summer schools each year for further instruction and during the months while they are teaching let the foreign teachers go about among the schools inspecting the work, correcting mistakes and adding the needed enthusiasm. How many years would it be before larger and higher things would be necessary? Not many.

Some of the time must be spent by the foreign teacher in preparing the necessary text books for use in these schools. At first the Korean teachers could teach some of the branches directly from the black-board but in time a full line of text books must be forthcoming. These the foreigner must prepare and see through the press.

Next Autumn at the time of the various Annual meetings some such plan as this could be discussed; the body of teachers could be gotten together and normal and text-book work could be carried on simultaneously for a year, by which time arrangements could be made in the various Christian communities for the establishment of the

system of Christian common schools. Five years from today the country would be covered with a network of good schools and in eight years a full system of common, middle and collegiate schools would be in full working order.

On the other hand, if we continue our present methods what will we have? We may have a handsome building in Seoul with a large attendance, mostly of non-Christian men from whom neither the ranks of the ministry nor of teaching can be largely recruited, because most of them will have gotten their initial training in all sorts of schools and their ambitions will all be in other directions.

What we want is something in the shape of a great national movement in favor of education. These common schools will be an object lesson which will open the eyes of the people, and perhaps of the government, to the need of a national system of government schools and a beginning will be made toward an enlightened Korea.

But whatever we do let us start at the foundation and work up and let us not plan a college or university before we have provided feeders for it; for if so we may fall under the censure of that trenchant though inelegant Korean proverb which says.

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Japanese Plans for Korea.

In spite of all criticism which have been made of Japanese actions in Korea we have never lost sight of the fact that there are those high in authority in Tokyo who are thoroughly determined that this transition stage shall be as short as possible and we have often affirmed our belief that as soon as the actual conditions prevailing here were known in Tokyo steps would be taken to remedy them.

In pursuance of this belief and with a desire to state

both sides of the case with perfect fairness we have made careful inquiries as to the attitude of Japanese officials here toward the unlawful acts of their nationals and also as to what steps are being taken in Tokyo to meet these conditions. The result has been a pleasant surprise to us and while time alone will tell whether our optimism is justifed we feel inclined to set down in black and white the reasons for the hope we have that the night is nearly over.

The first is that we know the highest authorities in Tokyo have been informed of the condition of things here. The facts have been told them without any attempt to extenuate or excuse. And we can affirm on good authority that those leading men in the Japanese government depreeate the condition of things as much as anyone and are as eager to remedy them as we who live in Korea are to have them remedied. We do not think they have been long aware of the state of things here. We know at least some of the avenues through which they received their information and one might be safe in guessing that part of it has been accomplished during the past month.

Now the promptness with which they have moved bears witness to the truth of our surmise that all that was needed was that the facts should be known. It is not because the war is not over that there has been delay in this, although no one could have been surprised if the Tokyo authorities should have been preoccupied until the fate of the Baltic Fleet was decided.

We are informed that the authorities in Tokyo consider it of prime importance that there should be established in many places in Korea courts of appeal where all cases between Koreans and Japanese can be attended to fairly and promptly. There must be enough of these so that they will be fairly easy of access from every point where Japanese have settled in any numbers. For this purpose twenty-four men have been appointed, all of them specially selected for their fitness for the work. They will be placed in various parts of this country and there will then be no difficulty in a Korean's obtaining

speedy redress for any wrong. These men receive only the small salary they had in Japan plus a bonus to cover the extra cost of living in this country.

It goes without saying that the Korean Government puts every possible obstacle in the way of every such action, on the ground that it impairs the independence of the country. The question is whether these complaints are to outweigh the demands of the people for justice. The Korean prefects are either absolutely supine or are in league with the worst elements of the Japanese. Look at a case which has just come up from a town within fifteen miles from Seoul The Seoul-Wiju Railway Co. puts down $1.40 a day for a coolies' wages. The money is all paid to the prefect of the town in which work is to be done and he guarantees to produce the coolies. By an arrangement with the Japanese bosses the prefect gives permission to these foremen to go among the villages and coerce the people. Gangs of Japanese armed with knives and revolvers go about the villages compelling every common laborer or farmer to work one day in five or one day in six according as the work is large and the laborers plentiful. These men get just thirty Japanese *sen* a day or seventy Korean cents, which is just half of what the Railway Company has put down. The other half lies somewhere between the prefect and the Japanese bosses. If the Korean were paid the full sum he would work cheerfully but the Korean prefect connives at things and gets rich off the half-payed peasant. Often the Korean lives twelve or fifteen miles from the work and has to spend half a day going to his work and as much more returning from it. Thus two days are consumed and out of his thirty sen he carries no more than five back to his family to show for two days work.

Of course everyone acknowledges this to be an outrage and the Japanese military authorities stand ready to punish it rigorously, but the Korean officials are as much to blame as the Japanese. This complicates the matter, as the splitting of responsibility always does. Koreans complain that it is difficult to obtain redress,

that when they complain of the actions of Japanese they are told they must bring the name of the offender, which is not possible. The Japanese authorities in high places recognize and deplore this fact and it is just for this reason that the twenty-four commissioners are to be sent, namely to relieve the pressure on the Consuls who are said to be so overwhelmed with applications that they get tired out and pevish and careless—being only human. There is every reason to believe that some if not many of the Koreans' complaints are grossly exaggerated. They all have to be looked into very carefully and we all know that the Korean is not likely to look at his grievance through the big end of the telescope.

From the practical standpoint it is now useless to ask whether the Japanese might not have prevented the mixed and unsatisfactory state of things in Korea. But the cause of the failure to prevent it has an important bearing upon the future. If we take the view of some that it is all due to intense preoccupation in other directions and a pressure of work such as made it impossible to give time to the Korean problem then the mistakes that have been made here need argue nothing sinister for the future. If we conclude that a horde of low class Japanese were debouched upon the shores of Korea of set purpose in order to "strengthen Japan's position here until she should get the war finished" then the mistake was of a more serious nature. If, again, we take it that the Tokyo Government was not kept informed of what has been going on, then surely there was something seriously wrong with her service here. One thing is sure, the Seoul correspondents of the great Japanese papers have apparently done very little indeed to keep their employers informed of the less creditable operations of their fellow nationals in Korea. If this were not true why should members of the diet who have just passed through the peninsula express such surprise at the conditions which prevail.

We have recently been informed that in carying out needed reforms in Korea the Japanese find themselves greatly hampered by the obligations to which they found themselves, at the beginning of the war, in guaranteeing

the independence of Korea. If we remember correctly Korea promised at that time to listen to Japan's advice in the matter of reforms, though we have not the text of the agreement before us. Now while we strongly advocate the preservation of Korea's independence it must be apparent to everyone that unless very radical reforms are instituted such independence will be of no value at all to the *Korean people* however much it may tickle the fancy of the officiary. Nothing has been proved more plainly than this during the past years. It is a melancholy fact that there is absolutely no reasonable hope that Korea will ever secure a clean and just administration unless she is taken in hand and persuaded or coerced into reform. Her officials ought to know by this time that their only hope is to fall in line with the plans for reform which Japan is preparing. They may rest assured that they will lose the sympathy of all the powers unless they begin to show a different spirit toward reorganization from that which they have recently shown; for we have it on the best authority that in a number of important cases the Korean Government has peremptorily refused to sanction slight modifications in procedure on the ground that it would be beneath the dignity of an independent power. We are aware of some of these cases, and while they are too long and too complicated to be explained here in full we assure the readers of this *Review* that they were cases which did not at all affect the autonomy of the Korean Government, and the objections were apparently made simply out of an obstinate desire to block the action of the Japanese at every point. If such senseless opposition is to continue and genuine reforms are to be held off indefinitely we shall be the first to welcome a Japanese protectorate.

In our last issue we gave some reasons for believing that a protectorate cannot be legally effected at the present time. We wish to supplement that statement now by showing the other side. Only thus can we claim to be impartial.

We have reason to believe that the Japanese authorities are now preparing some important plans looking to-

ward the rehabilitation of the judicial system in this country. Efforts are being made to find not only a fit but an eminent man to taken in hand the reorganization of the Law Department in Seoul. It is just here that the conservative Korean officials will be the most recalcitrant, for if justice is to be dispensed, genuine, impartial, undiluted justice, then there are scores and hundreds of Korean officials who will be obliged to hand over to their former victims the fruits of almost countless acts of most brutal oppression. If there is anything in the world these men dread it is an impartial court of justice. Here we come to the other side of the proposition as regards a protectorate. We do not fear contradiction when we say that, given the choice between the present autonomous government with a continuance of its utter lack of judicial impartiality and a protectorate under which every man, high or low, could obtain redress for wrongs, the whole world would welcome the latter. A failure to adopt this most sweeping and most radical reform will deprive the Korean government of all claims to consideration. They have got to learn once for all—a hing which has been forgotten here for centuries—that government is for the sake of the people rather than the people for the sake of the government.

Now, we confess frankly that as things look today this will prove the rock on which Korean independence will be wrecked. We attempt no prophecy but, knowing what we do of Koreans and their methods, we foresee that this reform is at once the most neccessary and the most difficult; necessary because without it all others are valueless, difficult because it will not only cut off countless illegal sources of income from the official classes but will strike killing blows at wealth already basely acquired. There are men today in Seoul besieging the courts with demands that wealthy criminals who have despoiled them of their lands and houses shall be brought to trial. These men hold the proofs in their hands but their despoilers laugh in their faces and taunt them with the fact that it is impossible to secure an indictment. Let the law takes its course, and within three months

millions of money will change hands. Men whose lands have been wrenched from them by gigantic confiscations will receive them back with all the profits that have accrued through years of illegal tenure. Let the Japanese once give these Koreans pure justice in courts of law and all the petty annoyances of the past two years would be forgotten in an hour. It would be a gift of such magnitude that it would bury the immemorial feud, wipe out all past differences and bind the Koreans to Japan with links of steel.

No, we ask for no Korean independence which does not include this and other great reforms. A toad buried a hundred feet deep in living rock is free. No one interferes with it or says it nay. Such is the independence which Korea has enjoyed for the past century. Independence implies not only the possibility of function but its performance and unless this government sees fit to move, to stretch itself, to blink in the light of this new day it will go to the wall, as surely as night follows day. If we can have these reforms plus independence so much the better but if we cannot have both then by all means let us dispense with the latter.

And yet, for all the difficulties that beset the way, we do not think a pessimistic attitude is quite reasonable. Korea will awake to the fact that there were two sides to the agreement and she will, either cheerfully or otherwise, agree to the needed reforms.. Order will be evolved from the present chaos, new conditions will bring to the fore new men and those who have strenuously asserted that the entire peninsula can produce no material of sufficient caliber to man the ship of state will eventually be proven in the wrong.

Detectives Must be the Cleverest Thieves.

[*A Korean story, translated by Rev. G. Engel, Fusan.*]

One of the former kings of Korea, who was a good and wise ruler, became somewhat dissatisfied with his

detective service, giving it as his opinion that they were not worth their salt. So he decided to test them. He took a small silk pouch, filled if half full of gold dust and suspended it from a hook in the ceiling of his apartment. He then summoned his chief detectives and explained to them that he was not quite satisfied as to their ability but would give them a chance to show of what stuff they were made.

"If any of your number," he said "is able to steal this pouch containing gold dust (pointing to the pouch suspended from the ceiling) I shall reduce neither your numbers nor your salaries. But if you are unable to accomplish the feat, your easy days are numbered; for I give you only three in which to do it."

With heavy hearts they departed to inform their colleagues of the King's decision. No one seemed able to carry out this piece of work; for the king had set watchmen to guard the pouch night and day and had made it a case of life and death if any of them should fail in his duty.

On the third day there appeared a comparatively young detective who informed the others that he would accomplish the feat. They only too readily acquiesced in his proposal that he should be permitted to carry out his plans without divulging them beforehand.

He went and asked an audience with the king, which was granted. He then asked to see the pouch in question, whereupon the king pointed to the ceiling. The detective took a good look at it from all sides, noting every detail, but hypocritically declaring that he was afraid the task was too hard. The king readily granted his request that the time be extended two days.

"For," said the king "you will not be able to steal the pouch even if I give you a whole month."

The man went home and prepared another pouch that was in all respects a perfect imitation of the original. This he filled half full of common sand and on the next day sought once more an audience with the king, which was again granted. But this time he carried the imitation pouch carefully hidden in the right hand sleeve of his ample court dress. After making additional inquires

about the task and enlarging upon its difficulties, he took down the pouch from the hook in the presence of the king and, suiting the action to the word, he said:

"If I put it in my right-hand sleeve Your Majesty will see it. If I put it in my left-hand sleeve Your Majesty will know it. I fear the task is impossible. Still, will Your Majesty give us one more day?" The king smilingly consented.

At midinght on the following day, the king entered the room and, finding the pouch still suspended from the ceiling, sent for the detectives. When they were all assembled before him he addressed them as follows:

"The time of grace is ended. As you have not been able to accomplish the task I set you, you are all dismissed the service."

The chief of the detectives replied. "Is Your Majesty quite sure that what we see is the original pouch?"

"Of this I am sure; for it has been guarded night and day, as you are only too well aware." was the king's rejoinder.

"Would Your Majesty condescend to satisfy yourself with your own eyes whether the pouch contains gold?" said the leader.

"That is useless; still, in order to satisfy you, here you can see for yourself." While saying this, the king had taken the pouch from the hook, had opened it and was just in the act of showing the contents to the chief detective, when he gave a start and exclaimed:—

"What is this? Why, it contains nothing but common sand instead of the gold!"

At first he was unwilling to believe that the original pouch had been stolen, and contended that they had employed witchcraft and merely changed the nature of its contents.

"Only spirits could have done this thing." the exclaimed.

When he was assured that one of their number had actually stolen the original pouch, he demanded to see the man and declared he would not believe him unless he was able to tell how it had been done.

When the man reminded him of the two audiences he had had with His Majesty, the latter signified by a word that he remembered them very well. The detective then explained how he had brought an imitation pouch in his sleeve and had exchanged the two pouches during his manipulations at the last audience.

When the king heard this he laughed heartily and cried, "You are more clever than the king himself. Let the detectives attend to their duties as heretofore."

Fiercer Than the Tiger.

A NURSERY TALE.

One night a tiger entered a quiet little hamlet in search of prey. Finding where a heifer was tied, he crept into the stable to wait until the household was asleep before carrying off his supper. As chance would have it a thief also entered the stable for the same purpose and crouched in the corner opposite the one occupied by the tiger.

As they were waiting, a baby began to cry and refused to be quieted by its mother's singing. At last the woman exclaimed:

"There's a tiger near; do not cry." But the baby paid no attention even to this warning. The tiger hidden in the stable thought to himself:—

"That is a clever woman, she knows I am here. Perhaps she knows also what I intend doing." Presently the woman said to the child:—

"Here's a *kok-kam*" (persimmon), upon which the child instantly stopped crying.

"Aha! *kok-kam*, *kok-kam*," the tiger thought, "what animal can that be with whose name she quiets the child? I had supposed that the tiger was the fiercest and most dreaded of all animals. Evidently I have something still to learn."

Meanwhile the thief was groping about the stable

intent upon tying a rope around the heifer's neck, but mistaking the two animals in the darkness he fastened his halter about the tiger's neck instead. That animal, thinking it was the terrible *kok-kam* that had him in hand, dared make no resistance. The thief leaped upon its back and rode away in the pitchy darkness wholly unaware of the nature of his mount. He reached his own village just as dawn broke and then three things happened all at once. The neighbors saw the curious sight, the tiger recognized the nature of his rider and the thief realized for the first time that he had been riding a tiger. He promptly leaped from the animal's back and the latter, disgusted at having been duped, slunk away into the thicket. With great presence of mind the thief sauntered up to his astonished neighbors as if tiger-riding were an every-day occurrence with him. And from that day he was an object of veneration throughout the district.

YI CHONG-WON.

Question and Answer.

Q. What rights have western foreigners as regards the purchase and holding of real estate in the interior of Korea?

A. This question has come too late for us to secure a legal opinion before going to press and we can therefore give only our personal opinion. But there seems to be no difficulty, from the standpoint of common sense, in solving this question. The treaties give to Western foreigners and the Japanese and Chinese no right to reside or hold property outside the treaty ports or a radius of ten *li* from them, but in actual practice this has been utterly overlooked, and today foreigners of many nationalities, east and west, hold land and live in the interior wherever they desire. This precedent has been so firmly established that it would be impossible to revert to the strictly legal status, in fact a new legal status has been

tacitly established. An American or British subject can legally do anything that a Japanese subject can do and the one cannot be debarred the privilege unless the other is. This was all threshed out far back in the eighties when the Chinese wanted to get Western foreigners out of Seoul. It was found that if the westerners went the Chinese would have to go too. It was even suggested that all private Chinese be sent out of Seoul in order to get the Westerners out, but it fell through. A precedent had been formed which gave privileges which the foreigners would have fought for, whether the Chinese were willing to go or not. So far as we can see any foreigner has a perfect right to buy land or houses in the interior and to live there at pleasure, and subject not to native but to consular jurisdiction. Even if Japanese consuls or consular agents were placed in every district in Korea, Western foreigners would not be under their jurisdiction even to the smallest degree nor could their property be taxed by the Japanese to the extent of a copper cash for any municipal purpose whatever.

American, British, French and German subjects have already acquired large landed and other interests in the interior of Korea and even if Japan should form a protectorate over the country these interests are inviolable. Even should Korea become a partof Japan by actual absorbtion the disabilities of foreigners in Japan would not hold here, at least in regard to property which has been already acquired.

But suppose that a foreigner discovers valuable minerals beneath the surface of land acquired in the interior; would he be at liberty to open up a mine? This is a more difficult problem. Koreans' rights apply only to the surface of the soil and mining can be undertaken only by government permission. We imagine that there would be a serious question as to the right of a foreigner to do more than the Korean holder might do. In the absence of any precedent we imagine a foreign government would uphold the Korean government in preventing the opening up of mines by the foreigner. We know that American residents in the interior pay the regular

Korean taxes on their property. At least some of them do; and this indicates that they are prepared to follow Korean law in such matters. Such being the case the Korean government would be able to make out a pretty good case against a foreigner who should open up a gold, coal, iron, copper or any other mine in the interior, even on his own property.

We should like to hear from any subscriber his views on this important question.

Editorial Comment.

In its issue of the 15th July the *Seoul Weekly Press* commented upon our attitude toward a possible Japanese Protectorate over Korea. It failed to agree with our statement that Japan is in a position to establish an arbitrary protectorate if she sees fit. But we should have supposed that it would have been plain from what we said the we were not, at the time, referring to the legal or ethical aspects of the case but simply affirming, what everybody must recognize, that if Japan were to break her promises and establish an arbitrary protectorate there would be no effective protest from any point of the compass. Japan is in military occupation and all the powers are apparently prepared to acquiesce in almost anything Japan may do here.

We cannot agree with the proposition that the present status of things is satisfactory, that Japan has just enough hold upon Korea to carry out her plans and that a protectorate is already established and in operation *de facto*. We strongly contend that there is either too much or too little of a protectorate here. This will require but litttle explanation. The Japanese people throughout the peninsula are treating the common people with great cruelty and injustice and there are no proper courts where Koreans can appeal for redress. In this state of things the Korean government in Seoul and to a great extent the prefects in the country acquiesce. But when

the Japanese authorities attempt to make effective arrangements for such tribunals the Korean Government does everything to thwart them, on the ground that such action impairs the independance of Korea. We say, then, with all the force of which we are capable that one of two things should be done. Either the Japanese people should be confined to the treaty ports according to a strict interpretation of the treaties or else the Japanese authorities should secure the power to establish such courts of justice as will insure to the Koreans immunity from the ruffianism of the Japanese coolies and adventurers in the interior. On this single proposition we are ready to stake the reputation of this periodical.

It is impossible to expect or hope that the Japanese can now be compelled to confine their operations to the treaty ports and we are therefore shut up to the single alternative. There need be no difficulty in establishing such courts of justice as we have mentioned. In another part of this issue we have shown that Japan is hastening plans in this direction and desire sincerely to see the present reign of terror in the peninsula brought to an end. Now if the present degree of control is not sufficient to accomplish this without continual and successful interference on the part of the Korean government then that control must be strengthened until it breaks down the opposition. This will not necessarily impair the autonomy of the Korean government. It all depends upon how the government takes it. If it coöperates heartily with the Japanese in securing safety and peace for the Korean people and gradually learns the lesson of genuine government in the interests of the masses, then a temporary quasi-independence may in time blossom into genuine independence. What seems perfectly plain is the necessity of a temporary period of political and administrative apprenticeship to Japan. According as Japan discharges the duties and obligations of a tutor will she demonstrate the truth of her claim to enlightenment.

But even as we write the evidences of Japanese private aggression are piling up about us. In a town near Seoul Koreans have been dragged away with a rope around

the neck to work on railway embankments, utterly contrary to the regulations and in flat contradiction of the wishes of the highest Japanese authorities. Just outside the South Gate of Seoul among the hills immense tracts of land now covered with Korean houses and fields have just been staked out by the Japanese on the plea of "military purposes" and the people have been told that they must move out on Angust 1st since the "Japanese are going to live here." Their houses wlil be paid for after a fashion but they will receive only a fraction of a market price and far too little to build or buy elsewhere.

It is about time the question of "military necessity" is looked into. It has come to a point when one can hardly escape the conclusion that this is a mere formula used to silence questions and crush opposition. No one is able to imagine what military necessity there can be which requires the confiscation of such enormous tracts of land in a purely residential suburb of Seoul But if one questions it he is silenced by the fact that military necessity is a military secret and the Japanese military authorities cannot be asked to give any reason for their actions except the mere statement of the necessity. In other words while we have received from Tokyo the expression of utmost concern for Korean private interest and have listened to plans of far-reaching and benificent import to the people of this country yet today there is no evidence whatever that the Japanese in Korea have been influenced by such sentiments. Elsewhere in this issue we have expressed the belief that the Tokyo authorities are sincere in their desire and purpose to arrange for proper jurisdiction in Korea and we hope above all things that the plans will materialize, but we see no evidence on the part of any Japanese, official or otherwise, in Korea, to forestall the establishment of special courts by doing what they can to right present wrongs. Two months ago a Korean bought from a Japanese a business house on South Gate Street. The building was at the time occupied by a Japanese tenant. The new Korean owner gave the tenant a month in which to remove but two months have now passed and though the Korean's title

to the house is perfect and is so recognized by the Japanese, yet the Korean is told that he must bring a civil suit against the Japanese tenant before he can get him removed from the house! It may be that legal action of this kind is necessary but not one Korean in ten thousand would know how to bring such action. There is no one to help him and the probability is that he will simply lose his money. What we want to see is willingness to right wrongs when a case is strongly pressed but eagerness to do it the instant the wrong is clearly seen. This Korean has been trying for weeks to get something done about this house and we think that means will be found to accomplish it.

The test of the whole matter will come when the plans of the authorities in Tokyo are put into active operation here and evidence is afforded that strict justice is to be done the Korean. Until that time, those who sympathize with the latter will wait with what patience they can

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There seems to be taking place in America a sharp reaction against the extremely favorable attitude taken by the people therein view of Japan's wonderful military and naval achievements. People were not willing to confine their encomiums to the fighting abilities of Japanese but voices were heard exclaiming that the Japanese exceeded the West in morality, honesty and modesty as far as in military and and naval matters. It was inevitable that a reaction should come and that the pendulum should swing almost as far one way as the other. Writers now seem vying with each other in picking flaws in the Japanese, emphasizing their lack of business ethic's and affirming that the opportunities for American trade in Manchuria will, under the Japanese regime, be even less promising than it was under the Russian. Great emphasis has been put upon the counterfeiting of labels on American goods. But we give the Chinese credit for too much sense to be long deceived by such tricks. They

will soon find out that the substitute is inferior to the genuine article and things will strighten themselves out. If, on the other hand, the Japanese are giving as good an article at a smaller price, the Chinese will surely find this out and purchase the Japanese product on its own merits irrespective of labels. Americans may rest assured that the Chinese are too shrewd to be deceived for long. Meanwhile it might be pertinent to ask why there is need of any trade-mark law in America or elsewhere, if the merchants are so horrified at the obliquity of the Japanese in the matter. Such indignation at this lapse in ethics ought to make it possible for us to erase the statute from our books of law, and trust to the moral sense of the business community. What say you, gentlemen?

The fact is that this low grade of commercial ethics is due to the same cause which lies at the bottom of Japan's military and naval successes, namely feudalism. A feudal state which elevates the military life, and, with it the literary life, to a pedestal from which men look down upon trade as a menial occupation cannot but result in a low grade of commercial ethics. No one should wonder at it. Japan's great successes are directly in line with those forms of intellectual and moral forces which feudalism fed and fostered and a true estimate of Japan would include those other forms of activity which are obliged to find a new basis on which to build. Trade is one of them. China has never been what we may call truly feudal and so in that country it is commerce which is honorable while the soldier is only one stage removed from the mendicant. In Europe feudalism did not degrade commerce. The merchants of the feudal states all through Northern Europe upheld a high standard of commercial morality. But the reason did not lie in feudalism but in the Christianity which lies at the basis of Europian civilization.

News Calendar.

On the first instant all Japanese police inspectors and policemen for the various provinces departed to take up their duties.

The Agricultural Department has been asked to grant a permit for the Il Chin-hoi to cultivate the waste lands.

Yi To-chai, governor of South Pyeng-an province, presented his resignation but it was not accepted.

The Japanese Minister has explained to His Majesty that since the Royal Treasury does not belong to the Finance Department it is not necessary that it should be examined by the adviser; but when a contract is to be executed with a foreigner or funds are to be transferred to the control of others it will be necessary to consult with Mr. Megata

The Finance Department has been asked by the Foreign Department to pay the sum of five thousand seven hundred and sixty dollars, the expense of repairing the roads at the port of Kunsan.

The acting consul in London informs the government that the secretary of the Korean Legation had such distress over the condition of Korea that he ended his present misery by killing himself.

The Finance Department is bearing the expense of sending a delegation to Japan on an inspecting tour, each secretary to have Y 2,000 as his portion.

The Minister of Law, Min Yung-kui, has been reappointed Minister of Finance, and Yi Keun-taik has been transferred from the Agricultural to the Law Department.

The Foreign Department has received a despatch notifying them of the arrival of a Japanese mining engineer, whose salary is to begin at once at the rate of Y 400 per month, with an allowance of Y 80 per month for house rent. When the mineral resources are somewhat developed three or four additional assistants will be employed.

Choi Suk-cho has gone to Songdo as magistrate.

Native merchants of Fusan have formed a Board of trade, or Commercial Society. The Chang-wan kamni, Mr. Hyen Hak-chuk, has been elected president, and the Tong Nai kamni, Mr. Yi Moo-yung, is made director of the society.

The chief of police in Seoul has given the people three days in which to remove all impurities from the streets and gutters and to install street lamps.

The Foreign Office complains to the Chinese Legation that a Korean woman had been killed by a Chinese merchant named Chang Hong hai. A policeman had investigated, and complaint had been made three times to the Chinese Consul, but nothing had been done to bring the guilty party to justice.

Request comes from Songchin that Yi Wan-yeng, kamni of that port, should have added to his duties that of magistrate of the district.

The Chinese Minister has informed the Korean Foreign Office that there could be no negotiations for peace between Russia and Japan without considering the vital interests of China, as China was made one of the excuses for the war. China had therefore notified her envoys to the two powers that any articles looking toward peace must also be made acceptable to China.

The Minister of the Law Department, Yi Keun-ho, was transferred and made governor of North Kyeng Sang province; the Minister of Agricultural Department, Pak Chea-soon, has been appointed to the Law Department, and Yi Keun-taik, General of the Royal Guards, to the Agricultural Department.

Min Yeng-kui, Minister of the Finance Department, sent his resignation to His Magisty but it was not accepted.

The Cabinet was asked by the Foreign Office to change the secretary of Korean Legation in Tokyo and make him attaché and appoint the attaché secretary, and it has been done.

The city prison is so hot and damp that the Minister of the Law Department has asked the judges of the City Court to release prisoners after a prompt investigation.

After an inspection by the Governor of Seoul, the South Ward Police Inspector and the Japanese Consul the posts erected by Japanese around Nam san were removed.

Citizens in Chido district, Chulla province, have requested the Home Department to reappoint their magistrate for a series of years, because of the just way in which he has looked after the interests of the people.

Members of the Il Chin-hoi were invited to be present at a meeting of the Ministers, and were addressed by the Vice Minister of the Supreme Court. He presented a decree issued by His Majesty in which the government was ordered to listen to the advice of the society, and the society was asked to propose plans to the Cabinet.

By a special decree the Minister of the Educational Department, Mr. Chai-keuk, has been transferred to the Household Department, the Minister of Law, Pak Chea-soon, to the Educational Department, the Finance Minister, Min Yeng-kui, to the Law Department; and the Minister of the Household Department, Min Yeng-chul, to the Finance Department.

The Finance Department handed over the account books and money to the officers of the Treasury. The total amount of money in storage vaults was eight hundred thousand dollars.

Prince Young Chin has been elected president of the Eastern Asiatic Educational Society and His Magisty has set apart a building for the use of the society.

The Foreign Office has informed the Japanese Legation of the despatch of a secretary, Mr. Ur Un-chuk, to the southern provinces to examine the lands about which Japanese aud Korean subjects have been contending.

Owing to the hot rainy season a public celebration on the 14th instant was dispensed with this year at the Freuch Legatiou.

A Korean living in Wiju was killed and buried without an investigation having been made by the kamni. The murderer was sentenced to imprisonment for life at hard labor ; but the kamni was fined two months salary for failing to make an investigation.

Yi Yong-ik, Minister of War, has presented Y100 to the Korean and Japanese ladies' society.

The Law Department has issued the following regulations for kamnis and magistrates at ports :

1 All complaints from natives or foreigners living in the port must be judged by the kamni.

2 All land taxes inside and outside the ports are to be collected by the magistrates.

3 All complaints outside the port in the same district must be judged by the magistrate.

4 The kamni has authority to send communications to Foreign Consuls in the port on diplomatic affairs, and to issue orders to the magistrates.

5 No other authority is granted the kamni in his own district, and he has no authority whatever iu other districts.

The Home Department has issued the following orders for those in charge of search for robbers :

1 When a robber has been captured he must be immediately sent to the judge in the nearest district.

2 Inspectors have authority to issue orders to the magistrates for inspection purposes only.

3 Inspectors must send reports to the judge or governor, and must obey the order of the judge.

4 When a magistrate does not furnish the proper means for inspecting, the inspector is to report to the Home Department.

5 Traveling expenses must be taken from the land taxes in the district, according to the number of days on duty, and the amount is to be reported to both the Home and Finance Departments.

Adviser Megata has decided that ten per cent of the salaries of higher officials and five per cent of the salaries of lower officials should be retained and deposited monthly in the bank at a nominal interest. When an official resigns or is discharged his savings with interest will be paid to him.

In addition to the exchange of nickels conducted at the Finance Department it is said there will be one other place selected in Seoul, one in Chemulpo, and one in Pyeng Yang.

On Saturday July 29th a very unfortunate disturbance occurred in Seoul. A member of the American Legation Guard was coming out of Rondon Plaisant & Co's store accompained by the two dogs that are the pets of the guard. As he came out a large powerful Japanese, supposed to be one of the stone masons at work on the new palace, gave one of the dogs a violent kick. The American marine turned and asked what this was for. Thereupon the Japanese sprang at him, hit him in the face and seized him by the throat. The attack was utterly unprovoked, as appears from the independent witness of a number of people who witnessed it. When attacked in this manner the soldier naturally defended himself and hit some telling blows, but several other Japanese came up and started in to assist their countryman. One of the dogs was busy at the heels of the first Japanese, and as one of the other Japanese made a pass at the dog the marine side stepped and knocked him down. A squad of Japanese soldiers came up but merely stood looking on. The first Japanese seized a cane from one of his countrymen who was standing by and attempted to strike the marine on the head but he warded off the blow with his arm. In the scuffle his hat had fallen to the ground and the Japanese seized upon it. The marine stepped inside the store and asked for an interpreter who could speak Japanese and commanded that his hat be returned. Meanwhile notice had arrived at the Legation that an affray was going on and Captain Broatch, Consul General Paddock, Vice-Consul Straight and Mr. Thompson hastened to the spot. Captain Broatch demanded of the Japanese that the hat be given up but he refused The Captain then took hold of the hat and the Japanese struck him a heavy blow. A Japanese noncommissioned officer and several soldiers were standing by but refused either to arrest the fellow or even to restrain him. They even refused to call a Japanese policeman. A squad of American marines came up on the double quick and stood at attention. The Japanese, wholly devoid of sense, made a rush at them, at the same time throwing a stone at them. Mr. Paddock caught him around the waist in time to save him from impaling himself upon the bayonets of the marines. The infuriated man struck the Consul-General one or two heavy blows but they did no harm. At last the Americans got word to the Japanese Consulate and a policeman came and marched the fellow off. The case is now under consideration. It is thought that this particular Japanese was trying to start a fight, for on the day previous he had refused to stand back from the American Legation gate when the funeral procession of Mr. Dixey was about to pass, and he had to be put back by force to clear the way. At one point in the affray a number of Japanese soldiers were about to enter the fight in support of their fellow countryman but the quiet and conciliating tone of the Americans and their unwillingness to go to extremities prevented a very serious encounter. It was a disgusting exhibition of bad temper or worse on the part of the Japanese workman, and it is to be hoped an example will be made of him.

The Korean envoys to Japan arrived safely in Tokyo on the 23rd.

The work of taking over the Korean Department of Communications by the Japanese Postoffice Department has been completed, and the Japanese now have full charge of all postal and telephone matters in Korea. There are a number of Korean employees.

The Foreign Department is asked to see that the salary of the Japanese mineral inspector be paid from the first instant at the rate of four hundred yen per month, with an additional eighty yen per month for house rent.

The Japanese Minister requests the Foreign Department to secure the dismissal of Hyen Hok-cheuk, kamni of Chang-won, because he is ignorant of diplomatic affairs, and to appoint Kang Won-so to the position.

At the Independence Hall on the 10th instant the Il Chin-hoi held a commercial meeting.

On the evening of the fifteenth the members of the American Legation Guards provided a delightful entertainment for their friends on the lawn at the American Legation. Invitations had been issued to a large number of ladies and gentlemen, including representatives of the various Legations in the city. The spacious lawn was brightly illumined with lanterns, and at one corner two large American flags made a background for the company of Guards as throughout the evening they sang declaimed and furnished various other numbers on the program. An abundant supply of liquid refreshments, ices and cigars had been provided for the guests. The Imperial Korean Band rendered a number of splendid selections, the entertainment closing with the Korean National Air by the band and the Star Spangled Banner by the Guards and band in concert.

The Korean Acting Minister in Washington is departing for Korea for a short visit.

The Household Department has officially anuounced the change of the Minister's official seal.

Twelve men accused of killing members of the Il Chin-hoi have been arrested and taken to Suwon for trial.

The Il Chin-hoi has made two propositions to the government:

1 Three thousand young men without regard to class should be sent to Japan to be educated.

2 All native priests should be freely permitted to enter the city of Seoul.

Chinese subjects have about seven million dollars in Korean nickels to exchange, and the Chinese Minister requests that the exchange be made for gold yen, and not for war notes, as otherwise commercial interests will be injured.

Japanese policemen have been sent to all the provinces except Whanghai and North Pyeng-an. Seven of these are to recieve salary of forty-four yen per month and four a salary of forty-two yen.

An audience with His Majesty and all the Cabinet was asked by the Japanese Minister for the 18th inst but the Foreign Office refused as recently the weather is too warm.

A society of Korean and Japanese ladies has been recently formed in Seoul. When informed of the matter His Majesty contributed Y 1,000, and set aside a building for use of the ladies.

On the eighth inst. the Italian Minister was granted an audience, at which time he presented important communication from his government.

The Yun Chun prefect reports to the Household Department that recently the wife of Im Yaug-tai presented three sons to her husband.

Min Kyeng-sik, Judge of the Justice Court, has resigned, and the director of the Court, Tai Myung-sik, has been advanced to the position.

The Vice Minister of the War Department Om Choo-ik has resigned, and General Kwan Tai-ik has been appointed to the place.

Min Yang-chul, Minister of Education, has called all his assistants for consultation as to the best means for advancing educational interests.

The magistrate of Sun Chun district in Pyeng An province informs the Home Department that a strange animal resembling a tiger recently entered his district. Five children above ten years of age were seized and devoured by it in broad daylight.

The Chinese Minister informs the Foreign Office that a Chinese merchant has an account against the Household Department of 12,000 Yen, and the Imperial Telegraph Office owes a small account of sixty thousand Yen in China. He asks that these amounts be paid at once.

The kamni of Fusan, Mr. Yi Moo-yeng, has exchanged places with the kamni of Mokpo, Mr. Han Yung wan.

Koreans in Hawaii have finally accepted the inevitable in permiting the Japanese consul to look after their interests in the islands.

The Japanese Legation has received a despatch from the Foreign Office saying that during the past ten years the Korean government has paid out one hundred and eighty thousand Yen to the families of Japanese subjects who had been killed by Koreans. An estimate has now been made of the number of Koreans killed by Japanese subjects, and more than seventy have been reported. The Japanese government is therefore requested to pay a moderate sum to these families.

The ship loaned by Korea to Japan during the war is about to be returned. Preliminary thereto two propositions have been made. 1 If the War Department is ready to receive and care for the vessel it will be returned to Chemulpo. 2 If it cannot be so cared for a Japanese ship company will purchase under certain conditions and use it for commercial purposes.

An official exchange is to be found in Chemulpo after the 25th inst. It will be open one day in five, and no sums exceeding five thousand or less than one thousand yen will be exchanged.

Mr. D. W. Stevens, Adviser to the Foreign Office, returned from Tokyo on the 17th.

Mr Yi Keun-taik, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, called the merchants to his office to discuss ways and means of developing Korean commercial interests. A prominent merchant, Kim Cheung-whan, in replying to questions of the Minister, said there were two great reasons why commerce was injured. 1 When a merchant by diligence in business has succeeded in accumulating some money he is "squeezed" without excuse by those higher in authority, so he has no incentive to increase his wealth. 2 The police inspectors have failed to search diligently for counterfeiters, and much bad money has been in circulation for many years. Now that time has come for exchanging money commercial interests will greatly suffer by reason of the counterfeit money. He suggested one means of relief would be to have more diligent police.

About eight hundred men are now steadily employed in construction work for the new system of water-works to be established in Seoul.

The military laws promulgated throughout Korea by the Japanese General Hasegawa provide for seven degrees of punishment for crime, the four most severe being, to be shot, banished, imprisoned or whipped.

Mr. Cho Min-hea, Korean Minister to Japan, asks the Foreign Office for leave of absence to return to Korea on account of ill health.

The sympathy of the entire community is extended to Monsieur and Madame Plaisant because of the sickness and death of their little daughter.

The Sunchun prefect, Pak Nak-sam, has been summarily dismissed for unmercifully squeezing the people.

A despatch from the Japanese Minister to the Foreign Office states that a Japanese engineer had been employed in the irrigation bureau, but the contract was cancelled when the bureau was abolished. His back salary amounts to one thousand four hundred forty yen, and he asks that it be paid at once.

The governor of North Hamkyeng province has resigned and Mr. Im Whan-o has been appointed to the vacancy.

The editor of the *Whang Sung Sin Mun* accompanied the Korean inspectors to Japan.

The Foreign Department informed the Household Department that according to the depatch of the Japanese Minister the contract for the employment of a Japanese subject as mineral inspector was by decree of His Majesty. The Household Department replied that no such decree had been issued, or asked for, and would be refused.

On the 9th instant the Italian Minister was received in audience at 3 o'clock and the French Minister at 4.

The Foreign Department has been notified by the Japanese Minister that beginning the first of September the proposed Agricultural and Industrial school will have two departments. He introduced a Japanese professor of agriculture, whose salary must be paid from the first instant at the rate of 200 Yen per month, including house rent. The teacher for the industrial department must be selected soon from the Japanese educational department.

In reply to a communication from the Foreign Department relative to a despatch from the Japanese Minister concerning the employment of a Japanese for industrial service, word comes from the Agricultural Department that there had been no such negotiations between the Department and the Japanese Minister.

The Dai Ichi Ginko has established a branch at Song-do.

A branch line of street railway was constructed along the broad street leading to the old palace to facilitate the transfer of the old nickel coinage from the Treasury Department to the mint.

The newly appointed prefect of Yang Keun, Mr. Song Kyu-henn, has written to the Home Department saying that he sent a memorial to His Majesty two years ago, and as no answer has been received he has been waiting until this time for punishment. Now he has suddenly been appointed magistrate, but as he has no theories of how to rule the people justly he earnestly requests to be excused from serving.

The Cabinet meeting on the 10th discussed the following matters:

1 The appointment of a police inspector for each province.

2 A proposal to appoint Choi Suk-min as director of the Police Department.

3 A proposal to appoint Yi Yong-sea as director of the Law Department.

4 Whether to pay the traveling expenses of the Japanese finance inspecting agents to Korea.

A special edict has been issued by His Majesty, ordering the a Red Cross society to be established.

On the 18th instant Ministers were transferred as follows, by special decree:

From Minister of Finance to Minister of Law, Min Yeng-kei; from Minister of Agriculture to Minister of Law, Yi [illegible]uu-taik; from Minister of Education to Minister of Agriculture, Pak Chea-soon; from Minister of Finance to Minister of Education, Min Yung-chul.

It is reported that the number of Japanese Buddhists in Korea have very greatly increased, and a circular has been sent throughout the country to the effect that this religion will be taught in all parts of the interior, and schools will be established to properly educate the young men.

Ten Korean inspectors started for Japan on the fifteenth instant, among them Min Pyeng-suk, Min Yeng kui, Cho Tong-ynn, Min Sang-ho and Ynn Chi-ho.

The Home Department has notified the governors of all provinces that no injury is to be permitted against any societies, and anyone molesting any member of these societies will be severely punished.

On advice of the Japanese Minister the Foreign Office is reported to have telegraphed to the Korean Legations in England, France and Germany reducing the number of foreign clerks employed at said Legations.

The North Chung Chung governor reports to the Agricultural Department his inability to prevent Japanese subjects from entering Yeng Dong district and digging gold.

The constitutional society held a meetiug ou the third instant, attended by about one hundred members, with five or six Japanese gendarmes to see that everything proceeded properly.

Mr. Yu Chung-soo, Vice Minister of the Finance Department, was appointed Acting Minister because of the resignation of his chief.

The Home Department has been asked by Syn Sang-hoon, Vice Minister of the Supreme Court, to arrest and bring to Seoul and punish all persons guilty of injuring members of the Il Chin-hoi.

The Educational Department sent a circular letter to all government schools asking all teachers to attend a special training class in Seoul for three weeks in July to learn the plans for developing educational work.

The chief of police in Seoul has sent word to the five wards that bands of robbers are numerous because of the inefficiency of the police. He orders all police inspectors to be more diligent than ever before.

The Korean government has borrowed Y 2,000,000 on 7 per cent bonds, iuterest payable semi-annually in May and November. The principal is to be repaid by lot within two years after the expiratiou of three years. The entire loan is thus to be repaid within five years. The taxes of the country are put up as security for the bonds. While the total bond issue is Y 2,000,000, the applications received in Japan amounted to more than Y 8,000,000.

A company has been formed among Korean merchants for the purpose of moving the large market from inside the South Gate of Seoul to the centre of the city. They contemplate erecting a platform over the broad drain, extending from the Long bridge to the Broad bridge, and on this platfrom will be displayed the various articles of merchandise.

An uproar has been made in Pyeng Yang by the Koreans over the wretched coudition of the currency.

Arthur Sturgis Dixey.

Mr. Dixie, of the American Legation, Seoul, passed away on the afternoon of the 26th of July after a brief but severe attack of dysentery. This came as a sudden shock to the foreign community many of whom had not been aware that he was ill. Although he had been here only a few weeks he had made many friends and the entire community feels that it has suffered a great loss.

Mr. Dixey was the only son of Richard C. Dixey, Beacon Hill, Boston, Mass. He was educated in Europe and in his American home until he entered Harvard University. From this institution he graduated in 1902 at the age of twenty-two. While there he took an active part in all phases of college life but especially in literary matters. He was for a time president of the French Club or *Cercle Francais*, at Harvard, a society which does serious and successful work in the field of French literature. After graduation he attended the Harvard Law School and upon finishing the three years' course was admitted to the Suffolk County Bar.

When Minister Morgan was appointed to his post in Korea Mr. Dixey applied to the state department for a place on Mr. Morgan's staff and was appointed Student Interpreter at Seoul. The place was of his own seeking and to obtain it he give up seemingly much brighter prospects of an appointment to Europe. But he felt that it was in the Far East that things were being dome, and with the same adventurous spirit of his ancestors he set his eyes toward the West where Occident and Orient meet.

He had always been devoted to his home, and his early travels which included a trip around the world were in company with his family. This Korean episode constituted his first independent step out into the broad world, and it was a long step. A man of fine physique, brilliant mind, splendid attainment, a master of French and German, there was every reason to expect that he would carve out for himself a distinguished career in the East.

But it was not to be. That fell disease, which lurks at every turn in this great city, claimed him and the high hopes which were entertained for him were dashed to the ground. His parents and his only sister are at present in Europe and to them we, as well as our whole community, extend hearty sympathy in this overwhelming loss. If we who knew him for sos hort a time feel his taking off as a personal loss, what shall be said of those who had, in him, an only son and brother.

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A large stock of Chinese tracts lately received from Shanghai includes the text-books prescribed in the "ourse of Theological Study' of the Presbyterian Council

C. C. VINTON,
Custodian.